



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Arcata Fish and Wildlife Office

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Arcata, California, 95521

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In Reply Refer To:
AFWO #
81331-2009-TA-0055

JAN 20 2009

Leslie Markham
Deputy Chief, Forest Practice
Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection
135 Ridgeway Avenue
Santa Rosa, California 95402

Subject: Fish and Wildlife Service Northern Spotted Owl Technical Assistance associated with new Timber Harvest Plans.

Dear Ms. Markham:

This letter is to reconfirm that the Arcata Fish and Wildlife Office (AFWO), due to budget and staffing constraints, will no longer be able to provide the current level of Timber Harvest Plan (THP) Northern Spotted Owl Technical Assistance. Starting March 1, 2009 the AFWO will not be providing Technical Assistance for new Timber Harvest Plans. The AFWO is committed to continue to provide Technical Assistance for:

- THPs already reviewed and responded to by AFWO prior to March 1,
- Non-Industrial Timber Harvest Plans (NTMPs) reviewed and responded to by AFWO prior to March 1,
- THPs associated with existing Habitat Retention Agreements (HRAs),
- THPs associated with the development of New HRA's,
- THPs that deal with NSO site abandonments.

As previously outlined in correspondences from our Regional Office in Sacramento (11/2007, 2/2008), the level of THP Technical Assistance provided by each of the Field Offices would change depending on budget and workload requirement of each office. To prepare CAL FIRE for this eventuality, the AFWO has participated in several training workshops and provided "Take Avoidance" guidelines to CAL FIRE staff to help CAL FIRE in developing "No Take" determinations for most THPs themselves.

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It is our understanding that CAL FIRE staff are now capable of making these "No Take" determinations. Nevertheless, our staff will be available to help with the transition. Please contact Ken Hoffman of my staff if any questions arise at (707) 822-7201.

Sincerely,



Acting
for

Michael Long
Field Supervisor

cc:

CDFG, Eureka, CA (Attn: Ken Moore)

FWS, ARD, ES, Region 8, Sacramento (Attn: Darrin Thome)

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